

Having thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

1     1.       A structure for use in attaching a suspension arm to a frame bracket, in which a  
2     cylindrical hole is bored in one end of the suspension arm, and a bearing is inserted into  
3     the cylindrical hole; a pair of spacer collars are inserted into the ends of said cylindrical  
4     hole for regulating movement of the bearing; a sealing member is interposed between the  
5     spacer collars and the cylindrical hole; and one end of said suspension arm is installed to  
6     the frame bracket by means of a bolt inserted through said bearing and said pair of spacer  
7     collars, characterized in that an integral flange having a larger outer diameter than an  
8     inner diameter of said cylindrical hole is formed at one end of each of said spacer collars,  
9     and this flange substantially covers said cylindrical hole.

1     2.       A method of installing a suspension arm on a frame bracket, in which said  
2     suspension arm has an end portion with a cylindrical hole formed therethrough, said  
3     method comprising the steps of:  
4         inserting a bearing into the cylindrical hole in said suspension arm;  
5         installing an annular sealing member into each end of said cylindrical hole,  
6     respectively;  
7         inserting a spacer collar through each of said sealing members and into the

8     respective opposite ends of said cylindrical hole, each of said spacer collars comprising a  
9     substantially cylindrical tube and an integrally molded flange attached to an end of said  
10    tube and extending outwardly therefrom, said flange having a larger outer diameter than  
11    an inner diameter of said cylindrical hole, said spacer collars being provided for  
12    restricting movement of said bearing;  
13            aligning said end portion of said suspension arm with said frame bracket; and  
14            inserting a bolt through said bearing and said pair of spacer collars, and  
15    threading a nut onto said bolt;  
16            whereby said outwardly extending flanges of said spacer collars substantially  
17    block said ends of said cylindrical hole.

1     3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said outwardly extending flange of each of said  
2     spacer collars is substantially transverse to said tube portion thereof.

1     4.   The method of claim 2, wherein said spacer collars are formed of a corrosion-resistant  
2     material.

1     5.   A hardware kit for use in connecting a suspension arm having a cylindrical hole  
2     formed therein to a vehicle frame bracket, said hardware kit comprising:

3           a bearing,  
4           a pair of annular sealing members, and  
5           a pair of spacer collars,  
6           wherein each of said spacer collars comprises a substantially cylindrical tube  
7           portion and an integrally molded flange attached to an end of said tube portion, said  
8           integrally molded flange having a larger outer diameter than an inner diameter of said  
9           cylindrical hole in said suspension arm, and wherein said flange is provided to  
10          protectively cover an end of said cylindrical hole.

1       6. The hardware kit of claim 5, wherein said outwardly extending flange of each of said  
2       spacer collars is substantially transverse to said tube portion thereof.

1       7.     The hardware kit of claim 5, wherein said outwardly extending flange of each of  
2       said spacer collars extends substantially radially outwardly from an end portion of said  
3       tube portion thereof.

1       8.     A vehicle having the hardware kit of claim 5 installed thereon.

1     9.     A hardware kit for use in connecting a suspension arm having a cylindrical hole  
2     formed therein to a vehicle frame bracket, said hardware kit comprising:  
3         a bearing,  
4         a pair of annular sealing members, and  
5         a pair of spacer collars,  
6         wherein each of said spacer collars is formed from a corrosion-resistant material  
7     and comprises a substantially cylindrical tube portion and an integrally molded flange  
8     attached to an end of said tube portion and extending substantially radially and  
9     transversely outwardly therefrom, said integrally molded flange having a larger outer  
10    diameter than an inner diameter of said cylindrical hole in said suspension arm, and  
11    wherein said flange is provided to protectively cover an end of said cylindrical hole.